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US president Joe Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison and British PM Boris Johnson discuss AUKUS during a virtual meet on Wednesday | AP

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AUSTRALIA-UK-US TRILATERAL TO COUNTER CHINA THREAT

The alliance will help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines to counter China's growing power in the region

NEW BALANCE OF POWER IN INDO-PACIFIC

US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, in a joint statement, said the Australia-UK-US alliance, known as AUKUS, will promote stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Biden said the three countries will update and enhance their shared ability to take on the threats of the 21st century

TECHNOLOGY SHARING HIGH ON AGENDA

- Under AUKUS, the three nations have agreed to enhance joint capabilities and technology sharing, integration of security and defence-related science, industrial bases and supply chains
- The announcement comes a week before a meeting of Quad leaders to be held in Washington on September 24 | P12

CHINA

REACTED SHARPLY TO THE NEWS, SAYING IT WILL AGGRAVATE ARMS RACE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Team Rupani blanked out in Patel ministry

Of the 24 sworn in, 21 debuted as ministers

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI

GUJARAT perhaps got its most inexperienced ministry ever on Thursday with as many as 21 of the 24 who took oath of office and secrecy as ministers being first-timers. That the ministry is being led by another first-time lawmaker Bhupendra Patel indicates that the real power centre has shifted to Delhi.

Not one representative of the outgoing Rupani government figured in the new ministry, obliquely echoing the Opposition's charges of incompetence. Applying the no-repeat yardstick to form the new government is fraught with challenges of rebellion, but the BJP appears confident of containing it, smug as it is in the understanding that they owe their position as lawmakers to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vote-catching ability.

The first stirrings of resentment came from Mansukh Vasava, BJP's Lok Sabha member from Baruch. "Baruch district has BJP MLAs but no representation in the new ministry. There is unrest among party workers; it will have consequences," Vasava warned.

Congratulating the new team, Modi said, "These are outstanding karyakartas who have devoted their lives to public service and spreading our party's development agenda."

BJP general secretary in-charge of Gujarat, Bhupendra Yadav, said a combination of factors went into deciding the new team. "We wanted to include fresh, young and experienced faces. They may not have ministerial experience but they got enough administrative exposure. The outgoing ministers have loads of experience; their talents will be used to expand the party's base," Yadav said.

Surprise phone calls

Like the CM himself, most of the ministers were surprised to get a phone call from state BJP unit chief C R Patil asking them to attend the swearing-in ceremony

As expected, Patidars and OBCs found the biggest representation in the ministry. The new team has seven Patidar ministers, including the CM. Four of them are from Saurashtra, where the BJP did badly in the last elections. It also has two Brahmins, two Kshatriyas, two SCs and four STs.

Modi is known for bold decisions and political innovations, said a veteran Gujarat journalist. "In 2005, after taking charge as Gujarat CM, Modi refused to repeat any incumbent in the local body elections. He fielded new faces and that gamble paid off. Ever since, such experiments are carried out in Gujarat first and replicated elsewhere later," he said.

P10

For security receipts to have their value intact, the government has to give backstop arrangement. Hence, the government guarantee of ₹30,600 crore

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

₹30,600 cr sovereign guarantee for bad bank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Union Cabinet on Thursday approved ₹30,600 crore government guarantee for the National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL) to acquire stressed loans, setting the wheels in motion for the much-awaited bad bank. Government guarantee will be valid for five years, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The NARCL's mandate is to take over bad loans from public sector banks and ensure professional management of such stressed debt. The bad bank will pay up to 15% of the agreed valuation of the non-performing assets in cash and will issue security receipts with sovereign guarantee for the remaining part. Security receipts are instruments issued by asset reconstruction firms as consideration for their purchase of distressed assets from banks.

The NARCL is free to invoke the government guarantee to meet the shortfall between the face value of the security receipt and the actual realisation upon resolution or liquidation.

Sixteen banks, including private lenders and NBFCs, will be part of NARCL initially with 51% stake. They will put in ₹6,000 crore to recover NPAs worth ₹90,000 crore in the the first phase. So far, banks have identified stressed loans worth ₹2 lakh crore to be transferred to NARCL. Assets worth ₹1.1 lakh crore with lower provisions would be transferred to the bad bank in the second phase. "We are also setting up an India Debt Resolution Company Ltd to manage the non-performing assets. In this company, public sector banks and state-owned financial institutions will own 49% stake," Nirmala said.

However, it will be a while before the bad bank can start out as it is yet to get RBI licence to begin asset reconstruction operations. The Indian Banks' Association had moved an application before RBI last month for the licence.

JUMBOS HERALD DASARA

Abhimanyu, who will carry the Golden Howdah during the Dasara festivities, leads other elephants from Aranya Bhavan to the Mysuru Palace, where they were ceremonially welcomed on Thursday | UDAYSHANKAR S

ED raids Delhi premises of activist Harsh Mander

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate on Thursday searched some premises linked to social activist and former IAS officer **Harsh Mander** – a well-known critic of the Narendra Modi government – in connection with a money laundering probe.

The searches were conducted at his residence and his offices at Adchini, Mehrauli and Vasant Kunj in Delhi, sources said. Apparently, the raids were held soon after Mander and his wife left for Germany for a six-month fellowship.

ED officials said the searches were based on an FIR registered by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing in February, naming two children's homes and their parent body, Centre for Equity Studies, headed by Mander. Delhi Police registered the case following a complaint by apex child rights body National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, citing violation of rules.

Confirming the raids, the Centre for Equity Studies said that over the past few months, it has faced raids, investigation, and inquiries by different government agencies.

The raids evoked strong protests from activists and intellectuals who termed the Central agency's action part of a "continuing chain of abuse of state institutions to threaten, intimidate and try to silence every critic" of the government. In a joint statement, the group of over 25 activists and intellectuals said Mander had done nothing but work for peace and harmony.

Gram Swaraj Bill passed in Assembly, Cong walks out

State Govt sidelining SEC: Priyank

Chittapur Congress MLA Priyank Kharge said by bringing the Bill, the State Government is sidelining the SEC. "Does it mean the SEC is not capable of carrying out delimitation?" the former minister asked.

The BJP does not believe in delivering social justice. Our party will oppose it and we will walk out

Siddaramaiah, Leader of Opposition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AMIDST stiff opposition from Congress members, who staged a walkout, the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Assembly on Thursday.

The JDS members, however, remained present in the House. The Bill, which was tabled on Tuesday, came for discussion on Thursday.

The piece of legislation allows for the constitution of a Delimitation Commission which will have powers to demarcate boundaries of wards or constituencies of gram, taluk and zilla panchayats. It will also have the power to fix the total number of members and give other recommendations. At present, the delimitation exercise is carried out by the Karnataka State election Commission (SEC).

Congress members charged that the move is only to delay the taluk and zilla panchayat polls and said the ruling BJP does not have the courage to face the polls.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa told the House that the SEC had carried out the delimitation process and more than 2,600 objections had been received.

The delimitation process was being done by the State Government before the powers were given to the SEC. The Commission will carry out the exercise scientifically, based on data and population, he argued.

Initially, though the Congress members demanded that the Bill be taken up for discussion on Friday, as their colleagues were at party leader Oscar Fernandes' funeral, Eshwarappa said it had to be passed in the Assembly on Thursday itself and placed in the Council on Friday.

"We have to submit it before the High Court on Monday," he said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

EXPRESS READ

Investors richer by over ₹4.46 lakh crore

NEW DELHI: Investors have become richer by ₹4.46 lakh crore in three days of market rally where the benchmark Sensex scaled the 59,000-mark for the first time on Thursday, driven by reform measures. In 3 days, the benchmark gained 963.4 points.

NATIONWIDE	SEPT 15	SEPT 16
Fresh cases	27,176	30,570
Recoveries	38,012	38,303
Deaths	284	431

KARNATAKA	SEPT 15	SEPT 16
Fresh cases	1,116	1,108
Recoveries	970	809
Deaths	8	18

ATTACK ON MEDIA

Journo assaulted during protest against razing of N'gud temple

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A Mysuru-based journalist of an Urdu publication was assaulted allegedly by members of the Hindu Jagaran Vedike who were protesting against the demolition of temples in Mysuru on Thursday. Scores of Hindu activists had gathered near the Kote Anjaneyaswamy temple outside the Mysuru palace premises to condemn the recent demolition of a temple at Huchchagani village in Nanjangud taluk.

Mohammed Safdar Khaiser, chief editor of The Daily Kausar, was recording the speech of Hindu Jagaran Vedike leader Jagadish Karanth when he was roughed up. He was questioned by the protesters who demanded that he produce his identity card. They also took objection to him and his camera person recording the event, surrounded him and demanded that he delete the video.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Former B'luru top cop wants early exit

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

ADDITIONAL Director General of Police-Railways, Bhaskar Rao, who was earlier Bengaluru city police commissioner, has applied for voluntary retirement from service (VRS). In his application, the 1990 batch IPS officer has requested to be relieved with immediate effect. The Chief Minister is the final authority to decide on his application.

Bhaskar Rao confirmed to TNIE that he has put in his papers citing "personal reasons" and is hanging up his boots after 31 years of service. He rubbished some reports that he was quitting to join politics.

Sources close to Rao said that he has been very unhappy over being "unceremoniously" shunted from one post to the other over the last one year. He was posted as Additional Director General, Internal Security Division (ISD) after being transferred from the post of Bengaluru city police commissioner on July 31. Six months later, he was transferred to his current post. Under the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2013, officers in operational areas and otherwise are assured of minimum one-year tenure, barring exceptions. The recent CBI closure report in the phone tapping case has further upset Rao. He has challenged the B-report filed in court.

Rao is the second IPS officer of ADGP rank from the Karnataka cadre to opt for VRS. His senior and former ADGP Sanjay Sahay of the 1989 batch quit after opting for VRS in March last year.

CAPTAIN'S CALL

Kohli out of T20 leadership race

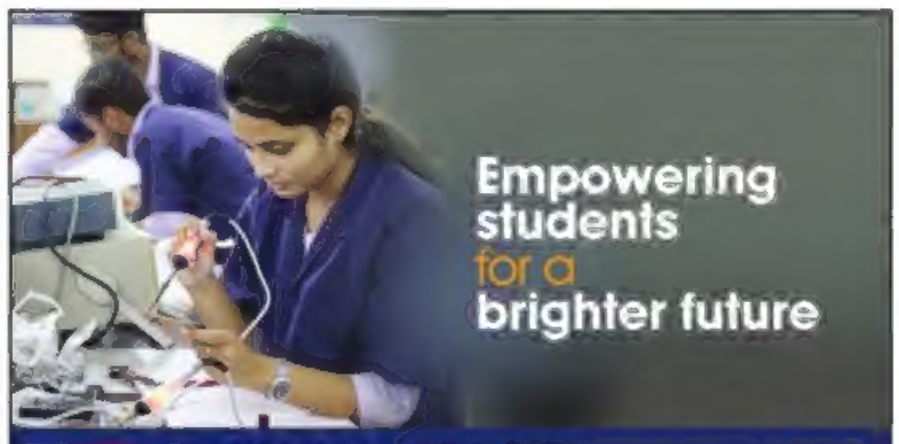
VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

AT 5:53 PM on Thursday, Virat Kohli broke the news. Once India's upcoming T20 World Cup campaign ends in the UAE in November, he will step down as skipper of the national team in the format. It's something that had been coming.

He cited the immense workload he has endured since taking over as all-format captain in 2017. However, the 32-year-old wrote that he would be available as a batsman going forward. Like how his predecessor, MS Dhoni, passed the baton to him, Kohli has decided to do it now. If anyone occupies the hot seat other than Rohit Sharma, the decorated T20 captain who has a record five IPL titles to his name, it would come as a massive surprise. Never mind the fact that Rohit is 34, but with another T20 World Cup slated for October 2022 in Australia, it is hard to see selectors handing over the reins to an untested candidate.

If Kohli, who has led the side to 27 wins in 45 matches, was waiting in the wings in 2017, Rohit is in that position now.

So why the change? Workload aside, the emergence of Rohit as an all-format player and his growing stature in the team have played a big role. On Thursday, if Kohli did show ambition by wanting to continue as ODI captain with 2023 World Cup in mind, Rohit too has been having his eyes on the role. In the past 12 months, Rohit's calm demeanour in the dressing room and his influence among the team has only been on the ascendance.



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APPROVAL & RECOGNITIONS	MHRD India Rankings (NIRF) 2021
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Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade	32nd Best in Engineering Category
Accredited by NBA	21st Best in Medical Category
Ranked In QS World Rankings 2022	14th Best in Dental Category.

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Placement Highlights
- Number of companies visited - 110
- Highest Salary Offered - 31 Lakh
- Companies offering more than 10 LPA - 21

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